

## PANTHER ARRESTS LAID TO U.S. PLOT

Chairman Says Nixon Seeks  
to Destroy Negro Party

By EARL CALDWELL

Special to The New York Times

BERKELEY, Calif., June 5—

The chairman of the Black Panther party said today that recent mass arrests of Panther leaders were part of a plot to destroy the organization of militant blacks.

At an unusual morning press conference, the chairman, Bobby Seale, referred to the arrests as "nothing more than Richard M. Nixon's operations of attempting to destroy the national and state level Black Panther party leaderships."

Mr. Seale said that the plot ordered by the President was being carried out by the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the aid of local law enforcement agencies.

The chairman and co-founder of the Black Panther party expressed particular concern over recent arrests of Panthers in New York and Chicago. And while the press conference was in session, he was informed that a group of Panthers had been arrested in Denver.

Mr. Seale called the arresting agents "Fascist F.B.I. pigs" and said that they were attempting to stop Socialist programs advocated by the Panthers.

### United Front Sought

To cope with the situation, Mr. Seale said that the Black Panthers were calling together radicals from across the country for a national conference next month.

He said that the purpose of the meeting would be to develop "a united front against Fascism in America." Mr. Seale said that the conference had been scheduled for July 18-21 in Oakland, Calif.

While Mr. Seale spoke enthusiastically of the conference, he spent most of his time discussing the growing number of mass arrests of Black Panthers.

He said that within the last two months "more than 40" Panther leaders on the East Coast had been arrested and jailed. He said that this had been in addition to a group of 21 members of the party in New York City who were arrested on conspiracy charges.

In Chicago yesterday, the



Associated Press

**TAKE PANTHERS INTO CUSTODY: Denver police and F.B.I. agent, right, start search of Black Panther center. Two were seized in connection with New Haven murder.**

Federal Bureau of Investigation raided the Panther offices and arrested eight party members. They were charged with harboring a fugitive.

Mr. Seale did not discuss the impact the arrests were having on the organization. He simply said that the organization was losing "too damn many good people." But a source close to the organization said the chairman was not particularly disturbed.

In addition to the Chicago and New York arrests, the Panthers said that they had lost key men in Oregon, Connecticut, Colorado, New Jersey and California.

In every case, Mr. Seale said that the Panthers had been victims of what he called "trumped up charges."

### No Government Comment

WASHINGTON, June 5—The Department of Justice declined to comment on charges that raids on Panther offices had been ordered by President

Nixon and directed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

### Murder Suspects Seized

DENVER, June 5 (UPI) — F.B.I. agents and policemen lobbed tear gas into the basement of a Black Panther headquarters early today to flush out two men suspected of the torture-murder of a Negro militant in Connecticut last month.

Scott Werner, agent-in-charge of the F.B.I., said the pair, Rory Hithe, 18 years old, and Landon Robert Williams, 25, had offered no resistance. Eight other Panther members also were routed by the tear gas but were not arrested.

The two men were taken into custody for the murder of Al Rackley, 24, a fellow Panther who apparently was tortured and shot after undergoing a "kangaroo court" trial for alleged wrongdoings in the Panther organization, the authorities said.

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